THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In Andhra Pradesh 11 tourist complexes (Yatriniwases) have been sanctioned during Ninth Plan for Rs. 411.00 lakhs. Under the scheme for grant of interest subsidy on loans to 1-3 Star Hotels, seven hotel projects in the private sector in Andhra Pradesh have been extended interest subsidy benefits.

(d) Funds are provided to the State/UT Governments for tourism-related projects including budget accommodation every year on the basis of projects identified in consultation with them.

Rejection of World Heritage Sites for incomplete information

4368. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 Indian proposals for grant of World Heritage Sites were rejected for incomplete information; and

(b) if so, the action taken to re-submit the proposals with appeal to treat them as fresh requests at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Eleven nominations for cultural sites of India were submitted to the UNESCO in 1998 for inscribing on the World Heritage List. The UNESCO required some additional information on these proposals and also offered to depute an expert to redraft some of the nominations.

Meanwhile, under the revised rules of UNESCO, countries which already have World Heritage Sites enlisted are henceforth restricted from submitting more than one nomination per year.

(b) Accordingly, Government of India have submitted a nomination for inscribing the Pre-historic Painted Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka in District Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, for World Heritage status. The proposal is under consideration.

Special scheme for encouraging tourism

†4369. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a special scheme to encourage tourism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government for the implementation of such schemes; and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned by these schemes, every year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides funds to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for identified projects for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism in consultation with them. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country on annual basis and develop the facilities in these circuits to international standards. In addition to that the Department of Tourism proposes to identify tourist destination in States/UTs in consultation with State Governments and take up integrated development at these places.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 59.50 crores has been made for the development of tourist circuits and destinations for financial year 2002-2003.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the foreign exchange earned through specific schemes. However the foreign exchange earning through tourism as a whole for the year 2001 is Rs. 14344 crores.

National Water Policy 2002

4370. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently announced the National Water Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have expressed reservation about the new policy, that it has tinkered with the National Water Policy of 1987;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and